Appl. No. 09/697,088
Amdt. sent March 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18 - 36 are pending. Claims 1 - 17 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 12 - 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Misinai, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,848,241 (Misinai '241).

Claims 3, 4, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being obvious in view of Misinai '241.

Claims 6 - 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being obvious in view of Misinai '241 and Misinai et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,758,125.

The present invention relates to sharing data in a storage system. As described in an illustrative embodiment shown in Fig. 1, data written by a first computer is stored to a first disk unit and is stored or otherwise reflected (e.g., see claim 24) in the second disk unit. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the first and second disk units are said to be in a duplex state. A simplex state is then formed where data written by the first computer is stored only to the first disk unit. Access to the storage system by a second computer is made via a disk identifier provided by the storage unit, which initially is associated with a third disk unit. In the simplex state, the disk identifier is re-mapped to be associated with the second disk unit, so that subsequent access to the storage system by the second computer results in accessing the second disk unit.

Originally filed claims 1 - 17 are believed to recite the foregoing aspects of the invention. However, claims 18 - 36 more clearly recite the subject matter of the various aspects of the present invention. Consequently, claims 1 - 17 have been canceled without prejudice in favor of appended claims 18 - 36.

Various aspects of the present invention discussed above are recited in claim 18, for example, in the steps of "forming a duplex state between said first disk unit and said second disk unit", "forming a simplex state", and "re-mapping a disk identifier". A review of Misinai '241 (including col. 16) does not reveal a step of "forming a duplex state between said first disk unit and said second disk unit." Misinai '241 do not disclose "re-mapping a disk identifier" to associate the disk identifier to the second disk unit.

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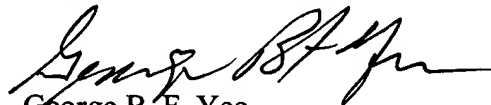Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2003

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Claim 24 recites an aspect of the invention in which the second disk unit contains information that represents the updates made to the first disk unit. Claim 24 recites "storing update data and its address to said second disk unit [and] writing check points to said second disk unit in response to transactions executed by said first computer." Misinai '241 do not show a second disk unit for storing "update data" and "check points."

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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